

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A miniature flashlight as disclosed to comprise a barrel, a tail cap, a head assembly, and means for holding a miniature lamp bulb and for providing interruptible electrical coupling to dry cell batteries retained within the barrel. The means for holding lamp bulb comprises an insulated receptacle disposed external to the end of the barrel to which the head assembly is engaged, a second insulated receptacle disposed within the barrel and matingly engaging with the first insulated receptacle so as to enable the first and second insulated receptacles to translate axially through a distance limited by a flange formed on the first insulated receptacle and an annular lip formed inwardly at the end of the barrel, and a pair of conductor members mounted in the second insulated receptacle such that one of the conductors serves to couple the center electrode of a dry cell battery to a first pin of the lamp bulb and the other conductor member serves to electrically couple the second pin of the lamp bulb to the lip formed on the barrel. A spring is disposed between the tail cap and the batteries within the barrel to urge the batteries into contact with the center conductor on the second insulated receptacle, thereby urging the second and the first insulated receptacles in the same direction until the second insulated receptacle contacts the lip on the end of the barrel whereat the second conductor member is in contact with the lip. The electrical circuit is thus closed by use of the barrel, the tail cap, and the spring to couple the second pin of the lamp to the case terminal of the battery. By threadably engaging the head assembly onto the barrel in a direction causing the head assembly to translate along the barrel towards the tail cap, the reflector moves with respect to the lamp bulb to cause a variation in dispersion of the reflected light beam emanating from the lamp bulb.

Further rotation of the head assembly in the same direction causes the reflector to come into contact with the first insulated receptacle, translating the first insulated receptacle, the second insulated receptacle, and the batteries counter to the urging of the spring, until the flange on the first insulated receptacle abuts the end of the barrel, whereat the side conductor is no longer in contact with the lip of the barrel, thereby opening the electrical circuit.

The head assembly may be totally removed from the barrel and utilized as a base into which the tail cap and the barrel may be inserted to stand the miniature flashlight, in its "on" condition, for use as a miniature table lamp providing substantially uniformly distributed light.